

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-11 DHA-02 SCCT-01

ACDA-05 SAM-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAB-01

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /085 W

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O R 271553Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6033

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 271

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0474

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, UN, US

SUBJECT: INITIAL REACTION TO U.S. SECURITY COUNCIL VETO

1. WE HAVE FURNISHED TEXT OF DEPARTMENT STATEMENT
(STATE 019616) TO PRESIDENCY, SENIOR FONMINISTRY
OFFICIALS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION.

2. SYRIAN PRESS JAN 27 BANNERED: "POLITICAL
VICTORY FOR ARAB CAUSE DESPITE AMERICAN VETO.
WORLD DECIDES UPON COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL AND
NATIONAL RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. (PERMREP)
ALLAF STATES: "NON-ALIGNED DRAFT RESOLUTION WINS
MAJORITY AND IS STOPPED BY AMERICAN VETO." (AL-THAWRAH
PRESS CONTAINED NO EDITORIAL COMMENT ON SC VOTING.

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3. DAMASCUS RADIO HAS WOVEN INTO LARGELY FACTUAL

REPORTING OF JAN 26 VOTE COMMENTARY SUCH AS
"AMERICA'S USE OF VETO NOT UNUSUAL JUDGING BY ITS
WELL-KNOWN PRO-ISRAELI STANDS." AFTERNOON BROADCAST
ASSERTED DEPARTMENT STATEMENT WAS EFFORT TO MINIMIZE
VETO IMPACT BY ITS PLEDGE OF FURTHER EFFORTS TOWARD
SETTLEMENT. ADDED CLAIM THAT STATEMENT CONTAINED "VIOLENT
ATTACK AGAINST PLO ON PRETEXT PLO DOES NOT RECOGNIZE
ISRAEL AND PLANS ITS DESTRUCTION."

4. EMBOFF MET WITH MFA INT. ORG. AFFAIRS DIRECTOR
KAYLANI JAN 27. KAYLANI'S OPENER WAS, "WHAT DO WE DO NEXT MAY
WHEN UNDOF RENEWAL COMES UP AGAIN?" KAYLANI WENT ON TO
ASSERT THAT SYRIA NOT PLANNING NEW INITIATIVE IN WAKE
OF VETO, SAYING THIS NOW UP TO "OTHERS." ASKED IF
SYRIA WILLING GO TO GENEVA OR TO INFORMAL PREPARATORY
CONFERENCE, HE EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM BUT THEN COMMENTED
THIS WOULD DEPEND UPON WHO ISSUED INVITATIONS, WHO
RECEIVED INVITATIONS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE CONTAINED
THEREIN.

5. KAYLANI SAID SYRIA NOT INTERESTED IN "PUNISHING"
U.S., ON CONTRARY SYRIA WANTED TO CONTINUE "DIALOGUE"
WITH U.S. NO FORMAL SARG STATEMENT ON VETO HAD YET
BEEN PREPARED, HE ADDED. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT
USG FOR ITS PART WANTED TO CONTINUE DIALOGUE AND
VETOED SC RES. IN ORDER TO PERMIT AND PROMOTE FURTHER MOVE-
MENT TOWARD SETTLEMENT RATHER THAN TO UNDER CUT PEACE
PROCESS.

6. KAYLANI SAID THAT U.S., FRENCH AND LIBYAN POSITIONS
"EXPECTED" ("LIBYA AFTER ALL IS MEMBER OF REJECTION
FRONT"). ITALY WAS WITHOUT GOVT, SO "WHAT COULD THEY
DO?" BRITISH AND SWEDISH ABSTENTIONS SEEM TO
HAVE CAUGHT SARG BIT OFF-GUARD --HE IMPLIED UK VETO
HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED WHILE SWEDES WERE THOUGHT TO BE
LINED UP ON POSITIVE SIDE OF DRAFT.
MURPHY

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